REMARKS

The allowance of claims 43, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52 and 53 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 42 to 53 remain active in this application.

Claims 42, 45, 48 and 51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by AAPA. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As previously stated, claim 42 requires, among other features, "an I/O buffer disposed between said scribe region and said core region and *laterally* of said bond pad relative to said core region and said scribe region" (underline and italics not in original). No such structure is taught or even remotely suggested by AAPA.

The allegation now is that figure 3 can be turned 90 degrees in the clockwise direction to achieve that which is claimed is without merit. If Fig. 3 is turned 90 degrees the above noted feature is still not found. This argument applies to all of the claims discussed hereinbelow wherein this feature is claimed, namely claims 45, 48 and 51. If Fig. 3 of the subject specification is turned 90°, the I/O buffer 16 is still directly between the bond pad and the core and scribe region and not laterally of the bond pad relative to the core and scribe regions. The I/O buffer is directly in line with all of the other claimed elements. The term "lateral" means –on the side--. The rejected claims require that the I/O buffer not only be on the side of (laterally) the bond pad, but also on the side of the bond pad relative to the core and scribe regions. This feature is not found in any of the figures of the subject application listed as being "PRIOR ART".

Claim 45 requires, among other features, "an I/O buffer disposed between said scribe region and said core region and laterally of said bond pad relative to said core

region and said scribe region". No such structure is taught of suggested by AAPA either alone or in the combination as claimed for the reasons stated above.

Claim 48 requires, among other features, "an I/O buffer disposed between said scribe region and said core region and laterally of said bond pad relative to said core region and said scribe region". No such structure is taught of suggested by AAPA either alone or in the combination as claimed for the reasons stated above.

Claim 51 requires, among other features , "providing an I/O buffer disposed between said scribe region and said core region and laterally of said bond pad relative to said core region and said scribe region". No such step is taught of suggested by AAPA either alone or in the combination as claimed for the reasons stated above.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Jay M. Cantor
Reg. No. 19906
(301) 424-0355
(972) 917-5293